

DIGITAL PRESS

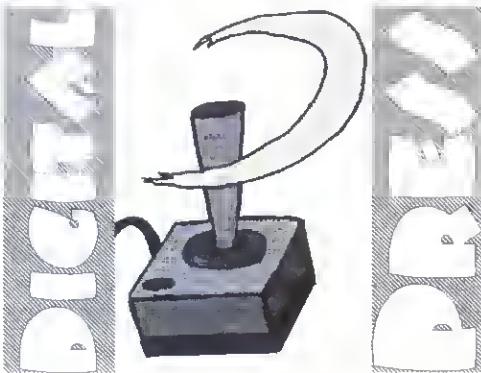
THE RIC-DEGRADABLE SOURCE FOR VIDEOGAMERS



#19

RUSA.

Santilli 94



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BACK ISSUES

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RUSH.

EDITOR'S BLURB by Joe Santulli

"Whoa!", you're thinking - "a whole fanzine devoted to games inspired by Geddy Lee! Awesome!". I am sorry to inform you that this is not the case. The theme is in fact, speed games, panic games, or any combination thereof. We found as we charted out this issue that there are just so many of these types of games that we left out the generic shooters, no matter how good or bad they are - for another issue. The games you'll find here are the ones that will kill you in 20 seconds or less if you don't know what you're doing. Players elite, unite!

Before you delve into this issue, let me ask you all to think about something. Do you LIKE the theme issues? I haven't heard much by way of complaints or criticisms, so I'm assuming that it's a good thing. We've decided that we really like doing DP this way. It may seem like we're restricting ourselves, but when you look back, you'll see that there's always a gamut of games we can discuss on virtually any theme. It's part of the benefit of doing a multi-system, multi-era fanzine like we do. And for Team DP, it's been fun figuring out how to fill the theme. I guess it's all just a big game, something we all can relate to. And if you still think we're limiting ourselves, just WAIT until you see what we have in store next issue (#20)! A classic!

I HAVE heard lots of pros and cons about "opening up" to you guys. Some people feel that I get too personal sometimes. I even had a reader once write to me urging me to cut out all of the "silly stuff" and get more into the facts. He frankly admitted that he wasn't interested in what we do, who we are, or what we think. Information. Information and facts, that's what he wanted. On the other hand, there are those who feel we're "strangers". What kinds of games does Kevin like? Is Schultz as violent in real life as his columnist persona? Is Liz a babe or what? I've made a decision here and the upshot of it all is, I'm going to tell you more about us. Whether you like it or not. We'll start here, in a small corner somewhere, and that "personal" info will grow or shrink depending on the feedback we get. So let me know what you think!

I saved this tiny little spot right here to thank DP (and Electronic Games) readers for voting us "Fanzine of the Year". You all know I'm not one to blow my own horn. I'm just an honest guy who loves video games. I'll take the honor and glory humbly... except from video game manufacturers, whom I shall expect much "free stuff" from! Seriously, thanks - we'll always be here for you guys! Now onto the meaty goods!

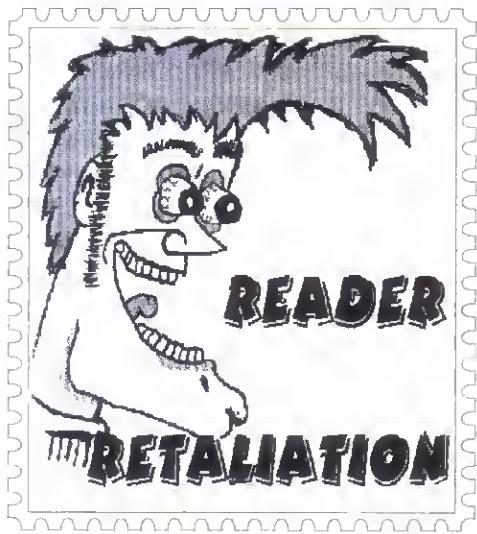
ON THE COVER

BANG FOR THE BUCK by Joe Santulli

These guys think they're fast? Have you played *Tempest 2000* yet? How about the classic *Fast Food* for Atari 2600? Either of these are better than any Aero or Bubsy game could EVER be!

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LOVE MAIL

Dear Genius,

Your fanzine blows away all others. I love sending you \$8.00 a year to read it. I enjoy how your articles reflect all interests. You're a good pal in this diverse world where people collect Atari 2600, ColecoVision, Vectrex, NES, 3DO, and other stuff. I often pull out my Atari to see how your insightful reviews bring new meaning to each game. Your recent issues have been both witty and irreverent. Not only do many gamers have classic systems, many new collectors are also showing interest in the old systems and games. Your opinion is respected by all who read Digital Press.

P.S. I once considered publishing a fanzine, but realized that only you know what people want to read. Write back, you stud.

Dale M. Curtis
Salt Lake City, UT

OH! You got me there, Dale. At least at first. After reading this I was thinking "what does he want? A free lifetime subscription? My video game collection? My wife?" or that you were just sucking up for the hell of it. Then I read it again (and again and again) and it clicked. Gang, see last issue's HATE MAIL letter and you'll get it. Incidentally, I haven't heard back from Ryan Gayle or Walt Neff since issue #17. I wonder how "Mr. Butchy's Flyer" is coming along? I really can't wait to immerse myself in that can't-miss literary achievement.

7800 MAGICIAN

Dear Mr. Santilli,
I'd like to submit some tricks I have discovered

for two Atari 7800 games. I know you don't normally print tricks, but being for the Atari 7800 could you make an exception?

DOUBLE DRAGON - WALK ON WATER. In mission 3, just before the bridge there is a grass section. Place yourself at the top of the screen and to the right of it. You can jump kick twice and this will allow you to walk across the top of the screen - literally walking on water.

DOUBLE DRAGON - WALK IN MID AIR. In mission 3, when the computer moves your character over to the second half of the level, push UP on the joystick. This will cause you to go all the way to the top of the screen. It serves no purpose, but it's fun to see your man walk in mid-air!

DOUBLE DRAGON - ALTERNATE ENDING. After the final battle, when the girl comes down from the wall, and just as she touches the floor, push both fire buttons and UP on the joystick at the same time, then release. Let her move up to the edge of the red carpet. Push UP on the stick again. If done successfully, she will "hug" an invisible man!

TOWER TOPPLER - LEVEL

SELECT/UNLIMITED MEN. On level 1, kill off your men by drowning. As soon as the bubbles disappear, activate level select with the right difficulty switch. Set it to whatever level you want to move to. This will also change your life counter to null, and give you unlimited men.

TOWER TOPPLER - END OF GAME

MESSAGE. If you move the level select switch all the way to the last level then back to level 1 and play a normal game, you will get a special message upon finishing the game. There will be no bonus rounds in this variation.

Edwin Nelson
Chicago, IL

Thanks, bro! I have yet to try these out, but next time I fire up the 7800... Scott Stilphen, if you're reading this - I know you're already plugging in the power. Edwin (and all classic gamers who love these glitches) have you seen Scott's "tricks" videotapes? You can get the Atari 2600 tricks video I and II for \$10 each by sending check or money order to Scott Stilphen, R#1 Box 177A, Harding, PA 18643.

JAG-HAPPY

Dear Joe,

I have a wee bit of news that may rock you at your foundation: Atari is shifting to 100% video game production! 33% of resources to the Jaguar, 33% to the Lynx, and... 33% to the classic games systems! Cool, huh?!

April Fools!!!! Heheh, you knew that was coming

didn't you? But to be quite honest Atari is shifting from a hodgepodge of computers and video games to sole video game sales with a market focus of here in the U.S. Numerous press releases have been made to this effect. While it may not directly effect us immediately it does seem that our favorite game company will be around for some time to come! (On a side note Commodore recently announced that they need an influx of cash or they will go the way of the Dodo. Seems that their CD-32 is not selling as well as once hoped or thought. Interesting, no?)

By the way, if you do not yet have a Jaguar, NOW is the time to get one. The new game Tempest 2000 is awesome! I had heard reports that it was going to be good but reality is far better than I had imagined. Some people are even proclaiming that it will be the next VCS! While I can only hope, much remains to be seen.

Marlin Bates
San Mateo, CA

I'm glad that you're excited about the Jaguar, Marlin. The gaming public is getting antsy about this system and its about time Atari produced something that shows off what the Jag can do (I still think all of the games prior to this are pure junk). I'm addicted to Tempest 2000, as you'll see in my review in these very pages. No one wants Atari to succeed more than I, but blind faith is not my style. I want more games like Tempest 2000, ya hear me?

MORE "FOOLISH"NESS

Joe,

It was a pleasure seeing another April Fools issue.... but congratulations on misspelling Don Rickles' name! My one and only hero, and you just STOMP on his image, and grind his talent into the dirt with your oppressive heel, aka "humor". Have you no respect?!

By the way, I think I've found a cheat in the game Virtual Life. If you push A,B,B,A (remember "Waterloo"? What a great tune!) on the title screen, you actually get to go back into your pre-life and can choose options affecting your virtual parents. What you do is opt to have your father be into sniffing glue and inhaling bus fumes, get your mother hooked on valium and thalidomide, then move them into the "bad neighborhood" trailer park, you know, the one right next to the nuclear power plant. When you start your game, you will find that you age at a much faster rate and no longer require sleep, making the game much less time-consuming to reach adulthood. Of course, you'll never get a prom date with those six hands and five eyes, and I can't seem to get past age 17 without being killed by the National Guard or Marines, but this seems to me

to be a great "easter egg" that really stretches the fun out of an otherwise boring game. Other tips? Avoid Little League if you ever want children, and make sure you soil your diapers (or pants) as often as possible to build up the parental frustration factor high enough that they'll let you get away with anything when you reach the age where you'll want to.

I can't believe that you liked the Fanatical Gamer 'zine - I mean, he goes out of his way to give us color covers, but all the gory pics of fanned casualties remain inside in ho-hum, yawn-instilling black & white - what gives? I hope he'll at least give us color when his video version arrives.

Russ Perry, Jr.
Omro, WI

Thanks for the tip, Russ. I had the same problem you did in this game at around age 17 until I figured out how to avoid this early death. You have to start searching for a really out-of-the-way place to hide when you reach puberty and remain there until you're about 30. I chose "Pompton Lakes, NJ" as my hiding spot. Since there are really no crimes committed in these areas, there are also no cops around to discover you. When you reach this stage of adulthood you can do something inconsequential like, say, produce a fanzine for video game players. This game really IS starting to grow on me. Or is that a third arm?

MORE RARITIES

Dear Joe,

I've been collecting 2600 items since around 1986, but I haven't really gotten heavily into this hobby until 1991. Since then, I've also adopted the 5200, 7800, and ColecoVision, and I'm toying with the idea of collecting the Mattel Intellivision. As a result, I've seen many things that haven't been mentioned in your excellent DP Collector's Guide. So, in no particular order, I've listed things you may want to consider as additions to the next edition of your Guide.

Taken from an article in a 1983 issue of Electronic Games, the 7800 was supposed to have a high-score cartridge available. Apparently, the high score cart goes into the cartridge slot and the game of choice goes into the high score cart. It can supposedly save up to 300 rounds of gaming. Maybe a prototype exists.

From the same magazine, a full page ad by Atarisoft states: "If you thought you'd never find fun games for your hardworking home computer, happy days are here. Because now ATARISOFT has all the great hits... Pac-Man, Donkey Kong, Centipede, Defender, Joust, Jungle Hunt, Moon Patrol, Pole Position, Galaxian, Ms. Pac-Man, and

Battlezone! And we've got them for all the hit computers... Apple, IBM, Commodore 64, Vic-20 and ColecoVision...". I know that Centipede, Galaxian, Defender, and Jungle Hunt are available for the CV, but what of the rest? The bottom of the ad, in fine print, states that Donkey Kong and Battlezone are not available, thus implying that the rest are! Hmmm!

Did Spectar, Side Track, Rip Cord, Donkey Kong III, or Horse Racing ever get released for the CV? I have a ColecoVision catalog showing all of these games but DK3, and I believe I've seen DK3 on someone's prototype list.

I am the proud owner of an Atari Touch Tablet. It produces odd effects on the 2600, but I've heard that it was only intended for the 400/800 series of computers. What's the deal?

I also remember reading in Electronic Games along the way that Wizard released another game, an X-rated one called Flesh Gordon for the 2600. Supposedly based on a porno film. Any ideas?

Kyle Snyder
Waldorf, MD

Alright, where to start... first, Kyle, we're addressing many collector's needs in the next edition of the Guide by adding a "rumor" list. If you spend enough time going through those old magazines, you'll find a whole lot more of these planned titles such as the Atari 7800 High Score Cart and the Atarisoft titles. Truth is, none of them were ever released, and no one has yet reported a prototype. Therefore, the High Score Cart for 7800, ColecoVision Pac-Man, Joust, Moon Patrol, Pole Position, Ms. Pac-Man and DK3 (which may very well be Super Donkey Kong, released for the ADAM) - as well as Wizard's Flesh Gordon for the 2600 - will all appear on the "rumor" list. Sorry! I'd have loved to see these games produced as much as the next guy, but the fact is, they don't exist. Neither do MANY titles listed in the ColecoVision catalogs packed in with the consoles! I still feel cheated by that. You have to wonder why they went so far as to assign product numbers to these games, repeatedly advertise them, then never release 'em? Change in priorities, perhaps? Maybe someday we'll know.

QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS

DP,

Several things: 1) Can anyone give me some specifics on the Supergrafx. How many games were produced - more importantly, how can I go about getting my hands on them (I already have the machine, that was hard enough). Please send all or any info. 2) Can you tell me some good mags from overseas that cover the PC Engine, Duo, or Supergrafx? 3) Mr. Kelly, could you

**BACK ISSUES:
GET 'EM WHILE THEY'RE HOT!**

#1: Neo-Geo: Worth It's Weight?, Atari 7800 Checklist, Worst of Atari 2600 pt I, Genesis Golf Side-by-Side.

#2: Whether ColecoVision?, ColecoVision Checklist pt I, Family Tree: Shooters, Worst of Atari 2600 pt II.

#3: How to Train a Non-Gamer, Genesis Football Side-by-Side, Worst of Atari 2600 pt II, ColecoVision Checklist pt II, Streets of Rage Strategy.

#4: Whatever Happened To...?, Vectrex Checklist, Worst of Intellivision, Videogame Mags Side-by-Side, Atari 2600 Rarities pt I.

#5: Life of the Party Videogames, Channel F Checklist, Atari 2600 Rarities pt II, Gamepro TV Review, Scavenger Hunt '92.

#6: Weird Games, Summer CES '92, Buyer's Guide to Classic Systems, SNES Golf Side-by-Side, Astrocade Checklist, Atari 2600 Rarities pt III.

#7: What If...?, Worst of Genesis pt I, Atari 5200 Checklist, Atari 5200 Vs. ColecoVision Side-by-Side, Atari 2600 Rarities pt IV.

#8: The Darker Side of Gaming, Odyssey2 Checklist, SuperCharger pt I, PsychOpedia pt I.

#9: Up & Down of '92, Night Trap Solution, SuperCharger pt II, Intellivision Checklist pt I.

#10: Sequels, DP Style, Atari 2600 Rip-offs pt I, Intellivision Checklist pt II, ColecoVision AV Inputs, New 5200 Prototypes Discovered!, Coleco Adam Feature.

#11: DP Interviews Daniel Bass - Intellivision Programmer, Worst of ColecoVision, Atari 2600 Rip-offs pt II.

#12: Best & Worst of SCS '93, DragonStomper Adventurer's Guide, Atari 2600 Rip-offs pt III, DP Interviews Ray Kuestner - Intellivision Programmer, Scavenger Hunt '93.

#13: PERSPECTIVE: Videogame Trading Cards, The PuzzlBit Corp, Real Videogame Madness, Genesis Baseball Games Side-by-Side.

#14: SCAVENGER: Scavenger Hunt '91 Contest Special.

#15: SCARY: Creepy Classic Carts, Horror Games We'll Never See, Rare Ware: Compu-Mate, Fanzine X-ing with VG Experience.

#16: BRAWL: Six Intangibles of Videogames, Tournament Fighting Games Side-by-Side, The Perfect Fighting Game, Atari Jaguar First Impressions, Upgrading your Genesis, Fanzine X-ing with Zinophilia, Worst of Neo-Geo, pt I.

#17: BRATS: Jess Ragan's Land of Rare & Exotic Coin-ops, Hollywood Looks at Videogamer '91, Classic Kids' Games, Jaguar Rebuttal.

#18: FOOLISH: April Fools' 1994 - purely for laughs.

please tell me how much it would cost me for you to make a multi-cart with all Vectrex (& demos) games on it? Just tell me what it would cost and I'd be MORE than happy to send you the money. Are Dark Tower, Mail Plane, or Tour de France on it? 4) I have some Japanese NES (Famicom) games. I need a converter to play them on my NES. Could you help me? 5) Could you tell me how to get an Action Replay code book from Datel Electronics? I've written but haven't gotten a reply. 6) Could you tell of all games made for the Sega Master System and the prices for them? I hear that there are several games available in England (Alien 3, Sonic, etc) but not here. Is it true? Can I get any for a reasonable amount? 7) Is the Lynx dead? It's my opinion that it's the best handheld on the market. Too bad Atari didn't get their foot in the door more. 8) Why didn't I find out about you guys sooner? Finally, someone who looks at video games the same way I do.

Dan Adams
Waukegan, IL

ANSWERS: 1) Only six games were made for the Supergfx (1941, Aldynes, Battle Ace, Darius Plus, Ghouls N Ghosts, and Granzort: The Mountain King). You may still find some overseas merchants with stock left over or at a "cutting edge" importer like Die Hard (818) 774-2000 or Game Shock (718) 459-GAME. 2) Good luck on that one. I'll print your whole address so anyone who may have an idea here can get in touch with you! 3) Sean sells them for

\$65-\$75 each, depending on the style you request. The titles you list have not been confirmed releases. Contact Sean at 5789 N Milwaukee, Chicago, IL 60646. I have one for sale at \$70. See Classified in back. 4) Again, Die Hard or Game Shock could help. They'll sell a Famicom adapter to you for under \$25. 5) Datel doesn't seem to be supporting the Pro Action Replay anymore. The product was picked up in the U.S. by a company called Innovations. Their number escapes me at the moment, but you can probably find them advertising in Gamepro or Game Fan in the last few months. 6) The Master System isn't dead in England, that's for sure, but it's probably about as popular as the NES is here and now. In Mean Machines, we saw a recent review of a new game called Dragon (based on the movie about Bruce Lee) that looks pretty hot. I'd recommend picking up a copy of Mean Machines or Megatech at any "cutting edge" bookstore (I've even seen these at Software Etc.). 7) You'll be seeing more Lynx if the Jaguar takes off. Again, much more popular in England! Wish I lived there. 8) Aww, shucks.

PROZINE HYPE

Dear Joe,

Thanks for the terrific issues of DP. I'm looking forward to future issues. Well, now that I buffered you up, I would like to talk about something that I think would be a great theme for a future DP issue, and that is "Super Hype".

The one thing I hate most about prozine is when they build a game up to be better than it is. For

instance, while paging through a current issue of a popular mage, I see a review of the Sega CD game "Rebel Assault". Not this was a game that many video game mags were going crazy for when it was announced last year. They said it would sell the system and that tons of people, including themselves, were in awe of what they'd seen.

Now, several delayed months later, the game is finally released to little or no fanfare. The same prozines that were extolling the games' virtues just a few short months ago, are now giving it disappointing ratings. What gives? Didn't these people even try the game before they made their glorious remarks? Prozines must realize that their readers depend on them to get the straight scoop, not a bunch of hot air. Do you remember the game "Silpheed"? This was another prime example of a mule of a game that was hyped to be an Arabian stallion. "It totally blows Star Fox away", they said, "It will revolutionize shooters", they said. Come on fellas and gals, prozines need to be careful of what games they back and do more testing before they can come forward and give their blessings.

It reminds me a lot of baseball managers getting a vote of confidence from the owner. And we all know what that means.

Craig Benusa
Arcadia, WI

Dear Craig,

What's a "prozine"? I understand the part about the Arabian stallion, but you lost me on the rest of your letter.

TEAM DP PROFILE

Joe "El Presidente" Santulli

ABOUT THE CARICATURE: "Yes, the beard is for real. Hey, the goatee style is coming back! Look at pro sports - Mark McGwire, Jack McDowell... I'm at least as trendy as they are."

ABOUT GAMING TASTES: "Over the years I've shifted around quite a bit. I've come to the conclusion that I'm more an 'instant gratification' gamer, which is why quick games like Tempest 2000 and just about anything on a classic system appeal to me. The worst games to me are the ones that you have to find something in some room and bring it to another room to continue. This would be your Shadowgate, Maniac Mansion, etc. games. Not for me."

SOMETHING YOU DIDN'T KNOW: "That I have a real job!"

WHAT HE'S PLAYING NOW: Mostly Sega's World Series Baseball and Atari's Tempest 2000. Recently acquired some Arcadia 2001 carts and have been fiddling with them, too.



Kevin "Mini-Boss" Oleniacz

ABOUT THE CARICATURE: "Are my cheeks that dark?"

ABOUT GAMING TASTES: "My interest usually drifts toward Role-Playing Games - Final Fantasy II is one of my favorites, I also really enjoyed Maniac Mansion, and of course Atari 2600 Adventure. I usually don't get into the fighting games (the SF2 craze never really interested me). I'm just sick of seeing them in every magazine. I just skip over them now."

SOMETHING YOU DIDN'T KNOW: "I'm also an avid non-sports card collector. I used to be into baseball cards, but eventually got bored with the hobby. My prize collection is my complete set of Wacky Packages - every sticker from the 1967 die-cut set to the very recent 1991 release, including all of the 1970's classics stickers, posters, patches, etc."

WHAT HE'S PLAYING RIGHT NOW: John Madden 3DO and Total Eclipse are keeping me very busy.



The
ALL-NEW

ROMPAGE!

featuring
Sean Kelly

COLLECTORS: INTELLIGENT HOBBYISTS OR WHINING OLD BIDDIES?

What a job I've got here at DP. I basically just sit here and think of cool things to bitch about. So far its been pretty easy because I've had plenty of things to choose from as far as what to write about in my column. This month "things that piss me off" were exceptionally plentiful so the only real difficulty I had was in choosing one to write about.

Well, I've decided on an issue and I'm gonna call it my state-of-the-union of videogame collecting : subtitled "LIGHTEN UP!!". I've grown extremely tired of the attitude more and more videogame collectors seem to be sporting of late and something has to be said about it. We, as a group, act a hell of a lot more like a bunch of old ladies at times instead of a group of people out to do nothing but have a little fun. The "fun" part of collecting games is slowly fading away and we're starting to look no better than the baseball card/comic book collecting groups. It's pretty pathetic in my opinion.

The DP Collector's Guide is under close scrutiny once again. It's NOT the bible. Just a "Guide".

"pretty". Back in the early days of the 2600, programmers only had 4k to work with and were "assigned" to cram as much fun as possible into that tiny amount of space. Most of the time, they did a pretty damn good job. Games like *Air-Sea Battle* or *Circus Atari* may not be something you're gonna whip out to impress your friends, but most people could sit down for a couple of games and actually enjoy themselves. Neither of these games (along with quite a few others of the same caliber) are gonna keep your attention for an entire evening as something like *Phantasy Star* might, but they weren't designed to. I think most of us can agree that quite a few classic games can still hold their own in the fun department of videogaming.

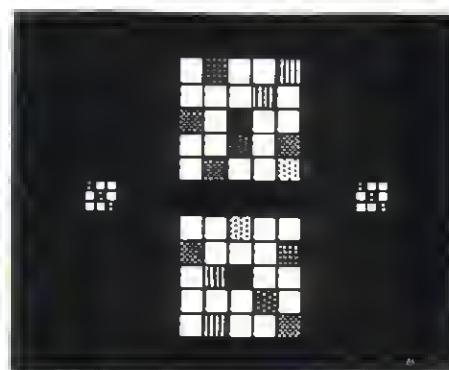
A common scapegoat for the people I've talked to that recognize the trend in videogame collectors' attitudes is the Digital Press Collector's Guide. Scattered debates over its necessity can still be found on occasion. Basically, the problem does not lie in the guide itself, but rather in the misuse of it by its owners. It was never intended to be the bible some collectors and/or dealers refer to it as nor was it meant to be the sole basis for trades between individual collectors. When we first put it together, we wanted to have something for new

and long-time collectors alike to get an IDEA (remember that word - quiz later!) what their games MIGHT (no yellow highlighter on the printer, but there's another one of those buzzwords) be worth to other collectors. Let's look at some simple examples here... Let's say you've got a copy of *The A-Team* by Atari. You might be thinking "Hey, this game is worth 75 bucks - what a find!!". Bzzzt! *The A-Team* can be had from Best Electronics for around 15 bucks. Now, let me ask this hypothetical you a couple questions. Is the game fun? Do you enjoy playing it? Did you have it in your collection already? If you answered "Yes, Yes, and No", it's a HELL OF A FIND! Let's use this same *A-Team* example here and apply it to a pricing issue. How many of you out there have a copy of *The A-Team* in your collection (raise your hands)? Hmmm....I see quite a few hands up out there. Now how many of you have a copy of say... *Criminal Pursuit* in your collection? Not many hands this time - but wait!! I just read *The A-Team* is listed at \$75 but *Criminal Pursuit* is only worth a lousy twenty bucks!? Doesn't sound like the official Digital Press algorithm was applied here to me. Guess what...there is no algorithm! The prices in the GUIDE (hey...sounds like another one of those words you might need to remember) are intended to GUIDE you as to what certain games might be worth. Other factors need to be taken into consideration when buying/selling/trading classic games.

You know I just had a thought that could have made me a pretty decent chunk of cash. Recently Rob Fulop, the programmer of *Cubicolor*, sold off the copies of his game he

had held onto all these years. Now the fool only asked a lousy hundred bucks for the carts and we all know they're guaranteed to be worth \$500 (it says so in the guide ya know!). Well, I heard he had about 50 copies of the game for sale so with a \$5000 investment I could have made back \$25,000 if I had thought of this earlier. Damn!

There I go again missing out on those once-in-a-lifetime deals! Something else about this deal Rob was offering kinda bothers me though. He said that the copies of *Cubicolor* he offered for sale a few



**All *Cubicolors* are copies!
Betcha didn't see that one coming.**

months ago were the only ORIGINAL cartridges in existence. I could have sworn I saw it listed on several people's collection listings way before anyone even knew where Rob was living?? Guess what - those are COPIES of the game and not original cartridges.

Copies of games huh? Here's another issue that has been brought up over the past few months and guess who's right smack dab in the middle of this controversy? Well, I don't have to tell most of you who it is, but I do have a little bit of news for some of you : copies of Atari 2600 games have been around a hell of a lot longer than I have. Back in late 1984 a device was for sale called the Prom Blaster which would copy any Atari 2600 cartridge onto one of the "blank" carts sold by the same company for a couple bucks each. People that were able to get their hands on these Prom Blasters back then were selling copies of cartridges they had made with it as originals to unsuspecting buyers (can you say Jim Redd?). This is most likely where the copies of *Cubicolor* mentioned above came from. Is this such a bad thing? The fact that they were represented as originals is definitely "uncool". Would the buyers have still bought the cartridges if they knew up-front they were copies? Probably so as games like *Cubicolor* are next to impossible to run across. Once they had the copies, would these same buyers still actively pursue an original cartridge of the game - most definitely. Copies of classic cartridges serve two purposes : they make the impossible-to-find games readily available to everyone and the make the hard-to-find games affordable to most. There are also a couple of "sub-purposes" of copies of games. They can offer certain games that may only be available on systems with games built-in in individual cartridges and in some cases can offer NTSC

versions of games that are only available in PAL format. They, in no way, take the place of owning an original to the true collector, but they do offer a means to play what might be a pretty cool game until or if an original can be located as well as offer a way to see a PAL game on an NTSC TV.

The point I'm trying to get across here is that when nearly everyone reading this started collecting classic games, it was merely for fun and/or nostalgic reasons but somewhere along the lines, prices and value entered the picture. This is a natural occurrence if you ask me, but when price and value start to take precedence over the fun that was originally intended then there's something wrong. The dealers out there treating this as a business are a welcome addition to the hobby as they're willing to do the "leg-work" in tracking down the hard-to-find stuff some of you may not have the time to do, but trades between private collectors don't need to be quite as business-like as they have become of late. Try to keep in mind whether or not you'll enjoy the game or whether the title has any nostalgic value for you when making trades. Paying 75 bucks for a game that sucks and you've never heard of before just cuz the damn book says it's hard to find is what I would call "less than intelligent".

OK one last thing here. Let's keep those videos coming in to Joe for the Digital Press "Live From Your Home" video compilation. Joe's been just sitting around the house leafing through old Woman's Day magazines waiting for tapes to come in. Hey....I've heard rumors even WERNER is sending one in!! Besides, I'm dying to see all your ugly mugs! Later...

Psychopedia

PARTS U THRU Z

by Joe Santulli



US Games - Here's another example of an "outsider" getting in on the video game craze of the early 1980's. US Games is a subsidiary of Quaker Oats - the same guys that make breakfast treats. Even with this background, US Games was successful in this industry. They started out in 1982 with the corporation name of Vidtec on the box, instructions, and game label, then switched to US Games late in the year. The box art became more colorful and the serial numbers "reset" when they released *Gopher* in 1983.

Some interesting concepts abound in their game library. Bashing a rodent on the head with a shovel, heaving eggs at a

maniacal bird, and gunning down parachutists (hey! Even that's against the rules of warfare!) was never more fun, yet this is the precise object in their games *Gopher*, *Eggomania*, and *Commando Raid*, respectively. There are a lopsided number of "panic" games (racing against the clock or overwhelming odds) in their library.

We love *Towering Infemo*, despite it's obvious connection with the lame-o 70's disaster (film). *Piece O' Cake* reminds us of the "I Love Lucy" episode where she had to beat the conveyor belt to construct a series of cakes, and we'll never get tired of *Entombed*, where you run the risk of getting trapped in a subterranean maze - even more fun when you play against another player and only one of you can survive.

SOFTWARE INFORMATION:

OF TITLES: 14 for Atari 2600. **TITLE LIST:** Commando Raid, Eggomania, Entombed, Gopher, M.A.D., Name This Game, Picnic, Piece O' Cake, Raft Rider, Squeeze Box, Sneak N Peek, Space Jockey, Towering Infemo, Word Zapper.

DIGITAL PRESS FAVORITE: Towering Infemo. **DIGITAL**

PRESS DUD: Picnic.



Vectrex - See GCE Vectrex.

VidTec - See US Games.

Voice, The - The Voice synthesis module developed by North American Philips for Odyssey2. Attaching this add-on to the cartridge slot on your Odyssey2 allows you to hear well-defined, crisp voice synthesis to enhance game play. The only down side to this module is that the enhancements are generated from the unit itself and not the television. Nine titles supported The Voice, allowing speech synthesis and digital sound effects. **VOICE COMPATIBLE TITLES:** *Attack of the Timelord!*, *K.C.'s Crazy Chase!*, *Killer Bees!*, *Nimble Numbers Ned!*, *P.T. Barnum's Acrobats!*, *Sid the Spellbinder!*, *Smithereens!*, *Turtles!*, and *Type N Tell!*



Wizard of Wor - (by CBS for 2600, 5200; The Incredible Wizard by Bally for Bally Home Arcade) A fantastic two player game (although it supports one player as well) that first introduced cooperative play in the arcades did the same justice to many home systems as well. Trapped in one of several maze configurations, you and a comrade take on the Garwors, Worlings, Worluks, and the Wizard himself in an eternal battle for points. The editor of this volume has nearly lost many friends while playing this game, as the "other player" is also worth a goodly amount of points when shot. 2600 version: Graphics: 4, Sound: 8, Gameplay: 8, Overall: 8. 5200 version: Graphics: 7, Sound: 8, Gameplay: 7, Overall: 8. Astrocade version: Graphics: 8, Sound: 8, Gameplay: 9, Overall: 9.

Wizard Video - The wizards at this game company miscalculated on the video gaming public in several ways. First, they thought they could produce winning titles based on popular movies. This had already been proven wrong countless times by Atari. Second, they thought they could make "controversial" games work. Wrong again, the public just wasn't ready for blood in a game (hmmm. Sounds familiar, doesn't it, *Mortal Kombat* fans?). Lastly, they figured that they were talented enough to make their games sell even with limited advertising.

Two games later, Wizard Video wasn't producing software anymore. Their two contributions to the hobby are fascinating anomalies of the era, and not to be mistaken for good videogaming. About the only positive thing you can say - they stuck to the script! In *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, you run back and forth with a chainsaw trying to mow down helpless victims. In *Halloween*, attempt to save children from a knife wielding homicidal maniac. Both are bloody, but not much fun.

Worm Whomper - (by Activision for Intellivision) we feel this

is a worthy entry to the guide merely because it proves that an Intellivision game could be fast moving and display hundreds of sprites without flicker or slowdown. This game is probably one of the most underrated, overlooked, and most addictive games of its time and we just wanted to mention it. The idea is similar to *Missile Command* - protect your crops from an onslaught of bugs. At higher levels, your eyes will bug out themselves. Graphics: 9, Sound: 7, Gameplay: 8, Overall: 9.



Xonox - A division of K-Tel, Xonox is thought by many to be an innovator in that their initial cartridge design, the "double ender" was both economical and inventive. Economical and inventive it may be, but it was not Xonox's idea. The first company to produce double-ended software on cartridges was a company called Playaround, who dealt in adult home video games. But that is another subject.

Xonox was a division of K-Tel, the corporation that brought us so many bad disco albums in various compilations that their name has become synonymous with cheap products. Xonox had that same "cheap" edge. It's hard to put your finger on it, but the games seem rushed, with few exceptions.

Artillery Duel is a classic PC game that had been seen on practically every home system of this era. Xonox's version is true to the original. Their best titles are *Ghost Manor* and *Spike's Peak*, which appear on a fairly common double-ender. In *Ghost Manor*, there are four challenging screens to conquer as you attempt to negotiate an evil castle. In *Spike's Peak*, more multi-screen action awaits as you scale to the top, avoiding everything from falling rocks to sneaky bears. One of the worst ideas Xonox ever had was to create an all-text game on the cutting edge game system of its time, the ColecoVision. It was called - most inappropriately - *It's Only Rock & Roll*.

SOFTWARE INFORMATION:

OF TITLES: 8 for Atari 2600 (in 15 different cartridge combinations), 9 for ColecoVision. **TITLE LIST:** ALL ARE ATARI 2600 EXCEPT WHERE NOTED: *Artillery Duel* (2600, CLCO), *Artillery Duel/Ghost Manor*, *Chuck Norris Superkicks* (2600, CLCO), *Chuck Norris Superkicks/Artillery Duel*, *Chuck Norris Superkicks/Ghost Manor*, *Chuck Norris Superkicks/Spike's Peak*, *Ghost Manor*, *It's Only Rock N Roll* (CLCO), *Motocross Racer* (2600, CLCO), *Robin Hood* (2600, CLCO), *Robin Hood/Sir Lancelot*, *Sir Lancelot* (2600, CLCO), *Slurpy* (CLCO), *Spike's Peak*, *Spike's Peak/Artillery Duel*, *Spike's Peak/Ghost Manor*, *Tomarc the Barbarian* (2600, CLCO), *Word Feud* (CLCO). **DIGITAL PRESS FAVORITE:** *Spike's Peak/Ghost Manor*. **DIGITAL PRESS DUD:** *It's Only Rock N Roll*.



Yar's Revenge - One of the most brilliant "original" games from the classic era. This Atari 2600 game was designed by Howard Scott Warshaw and produced by Atari. Its theme is classic - you play a Yar, a member of a pee-on race of

intelligent intergalactic houseflies, being dominated by the merciless Qotile - a sort of fireball spewing, tyrannical war-machine with sunglasses. Chip away at the Qotile's shield, then blast 'em. The game gets tougher as you get better, and the weird sounds and fast action are without equal. There's even a neat little "Easter Egg" in the game (although it happens unintentionally far too often!). It appears as if Atari had something up their collective sleeves (a series of games? A TV show? A book?) but didn't follow through. Not to be missed. Graphics: 9, Sound: 9, Gameplay: 9, Overall: 9.



Zimag - Many game companies in 1983 were set up simply because video games were such a large market that if you had the resources, you couldn't possibly lose money. Well, that was true UNTIL 1983 - when the market was so flooded with mediocre games like those from this magnetic-tape turned video game producer that the consumer simply packed up and left the hobby.

Zimag was gone almost as soon as they appeared. Their four paltry titles a testament to their staying power. Only *Tanks But No Tanks*, with its flickery graphics and inconsistent sprite collision detection belongs off of a "Worst of the 2600" list. The others are a pathetic combination of bad programming, dull graphics, and just plain boring games. The apathy goes from *Cosmic Corridor* - a claustrophobic space shooter that you can play forever, to *I Want My Mommy*, a children's game that concludes after completing just two screens. Fortunately in less than a year, Zimag was back to producing just the cheapo-video tapes and cassettes that had been their bread and butter before their dismal venture into electronic gaming.

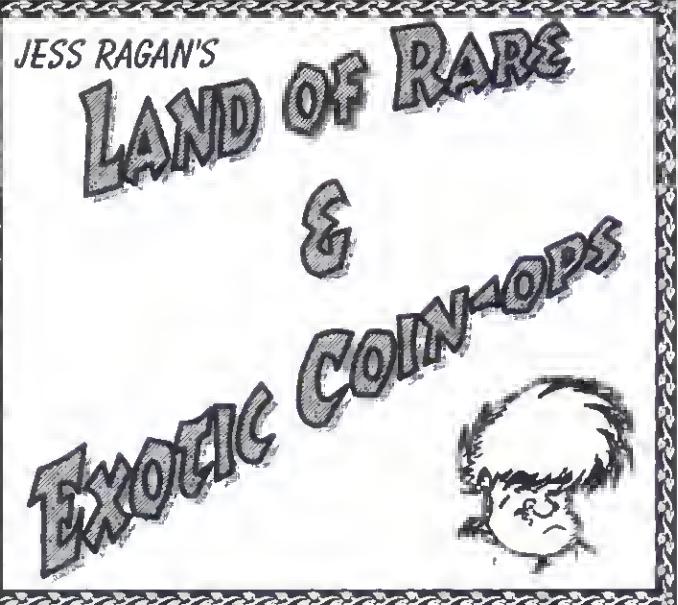
SOFTWARE INFORMATION:

OF TITLES: 4 for Atari 2600. **TITLE LIST:** *Cosmic Corridor*, *Dishaster*, *I Want My Mommy*, *Tanks But No Tanks*. **DIGITAL PRESS FAVORITE:** *Tanks But No Tanks*. **DIGITAL PRESS DUD:** *Dishaster*.

Zircon - The manufacturing company that took over the production of the Fairchild Channel F game console and software development in 1980. Zircon saw their chance to cash in on the swell of video game consumers by re-releasing the grandfather of home consoles. They improved the original model, retailed it at a competitive price, and even offered it as an "upgrade" to current owners, but it just wasn't enough. The Channel F, with its sub-standard resolution and sound was already an antique in most consumers' minds.

NOW WHAT?

You're thinking to yourself... it's over? I can't believe it! Oh, the humanity! Never underestimate our undying quest to document the "classic videogame" era! NEXT UP is the GAME GLOSSARY, (probably bearing a different title) where we'll provide capsulized summaries of games across systems, thematically! You won't want to miss it, starting in DP #20.



BY JESS RAGAN

As you boys and girls in DP's audience know, we rarely get into the arcade scene. Quite frankly, we've got plenty of games at HOME to keep us occupied. However, being that this is the kids' issue, we thought that we'd delve back into every enthusiastic gamer's past, in a dimly lit "Chuck E Cheese", with crude perverts in rat suits swatting you with their tails... and games galore. Somehow, there's always one of these oddball coin-ops that plants itself firmly into your mind despite its obscurity and haunts you for the rest of your life (since that game was either gutted for yet another SF2 machine or is impossible to find again). These are some of those games.

One of the oddest shooters I've ever seen is *Rabbit Punch*, assumably by Video Systems. Assuming the role

of two cutesy lagomorph/ashcan combos, you must blast through hordes of similarly tin-plated animals. As strange as it may seem, rotating cans of carrots hover through the air and give you the opportunity to power-up with carrot missiles, invulnerability, and other such oddities. Get hit too much and your metal-laced bunny bites it, as one would expect from a game of this type. Very strange and very rare - don't go hunting this one out as it's really not worth the trouble.

Several true stinkers are floating around under the Bally/Sente label, several of which include *Vigilante*, *Stocker*, and *Hat Trick*. Thankfully, what must be the worst of these was locked out of any further opportunities to nauseate hapless players on their home systems. Yes, *Stocker*, a racing simulation with unforgiveably weak audiovisuals is that game.

Taito's been known for laying a few odd games across



the table as well, including *Zoo Keeper*, the infamous *Breakout* in reverse with elements of *Donkey Kong* thrown in to keep the pot simmering. *Exerion* was one of Jaleco's first designs - I'm still not sure why they chose this. Flying across odd parallax screens, you must pluck several aerial invaders out of the sky with your choice of a gatling gun (replenished by wasting more enemies) or a double shot which is inexhaustable. The view is exhilarating at first, but the ship is too sensitive in this cross between *Phoenix* and *Galaxian* to enjoy fully. *Alcon* was a game that Taito expected to release with plenty of fanfare and hype, but this tepid *Terra Cresta* clone just didn't have what it takes to "click" with its intended audience. Russ Perry Jr. proclaimed me as "frighteningly clairvoyant" when I recalled the game in response to his memory lapse about it. P:I staffer Yes-Man has a handy hint for you potential *Alcon* players out there - DON'T TOUCH A THING. If you let your first life go down the drain, your second will be fortified with wings and firepower. *Jungle Hunt* was actually *Jungle King* before its adaptation to home systems. For reasons unknown, the Tarzan character was replaced with a dashing Dr. Livingston-ish explorer. Anyone still retching over *Rastan Saga 2* can blame *Nastar Warriors* as its origin, although the former was at least filled with cool parallax and bright graphics. Similarly, those who've gushed over *Space Invaders '91* for the Genesis have *The Invaders Return* to thank for this. *TIR* isn't really anything like the home adaptation, but it does seem to have the power-ups, new formations, and the like to keep things interesting.

Namco's had plenty of their own closet classics (remember those, Joe?), as well, including *Pac-Man Jr.* and *Super Pac-Man*. *PMJ* was similar to *Baby Pac-Man* only with more intricate play mechanics and less (about 100% less!) pinball action. *SPM* is one of my favorites. In it, Pac-Man can increase to grotesque sizes, eat real food instead of pellets, and the game has a more in-depth playfield. *Rolling Thunder* was actually a small release, as was *Splatterhouse*, but both helped to fortify Namco in those tough times when the Pac just wasn't enough. *Gapius* was an abject failure, however; utterly devoid of the fun that made its predecessor, *Galaga* so easy to dive into. One nice touch was the ability to steal the CPU's



Wizard of Wor (above) is a coin-op to remember, while **Super Pac-Man (right)** is one of Jess' all-time favorites.

characters!

Here's a few more for you to chew on. In *The Pit*, a tank sits on one side of the screen with your UFO on the other. A hill divides the two, but not for long, as the tank menacingly erodes it. Your only hope? A series of VERY deadly tunnels which eventually lead to your soon-to-be vaporized UFO. Sound intense enough? Try this one: *Pitfall* by SEGA of all things! Pitfall Harry looks kind of like Alex Kidd here, but anything is better than the rancid NES game. *Us Vs. Them* is a full-motion video extravaganza similar to today's ultra-cheesy Sega CD games, complete with shooter scenes reminiscent, but far inferior to Crystal Dynamics' *Total Eclipse*. Maybe we'll see it on the Sega CD some day. *Chinese Hero* and *Shanghai Kid*: a weird licensee (Taiyo? Taimyo?) produced these precursors to the Culture Brain NES games, although the home versions seem watered down in comparison to either. In *Cliff Hanger*, Stallone has nothing to do with the game. In fact, this laserdisc has close ties to the anime classic "Castle of Cagliostro". *Castle of Dragon* (my, how articulate!) is much better than its NES counterpart, but still very sloppy (le sigh). *BagMan* is a game I don't remember very well, but it was featured on the ultra-exciting game show "Starcade", as was *Cowboys 'n Indians*, an utterly brilliant coiner which allows players to leap from horse to horse in an overhead view contest to prevent native Americans (my, I'm politically correct today) from taking the train that you're sworn to protect. A true classic. *Revenge of DOH* is NOT a game about Homer Simpson; it's the sequel to the surprisingly popular *Arkanoid*. Whoever invented *JailBreak* should be Rodney King'ed immediately. *Ataxx* is a coin-op version of *Othello* and *Spot* for the NES, presented in an eerie style with blobs representing the chips. *Snow Bros.* is

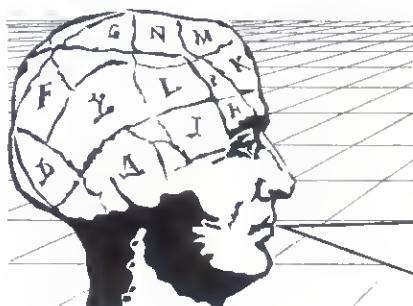
a personal favorite: the play mechanics are highly reminiscent of *Bubble Bobble*, which is a plus for me all the way. *Gun.Smoke* is a Capcom coin-op similar to *Cowboys 'n Indians*, but has more links to *Commando* and *1943* with its similar feel and audiovisuals. The first *Street Fighter* is a wonderful example of how once-awful games can be reworked into masterpieces (*SF2*), *Fabtek's Sports Match* is basically *Shanghai* with a mole-like referee which destroys the sports imprinted chips as you form matches. *The Real Ghostbusters* is a Data East failure that tried to incorporate the film and cartoon into a *Commando*-ish playfield; the drab graphics and execution left many bewildered and wary of playing it again, which contributed to its demise. *Space Dungeon* was actually a



Taito coin-op before it became the 5200 hit that most people recall it as, and Gottlieb's *Reactor*, with its grinding industrial metal, was once again a much prettier coin-op. *Mr. Do!s Wild Ride* could be redefined as Mr. Do!s MILD Ride - the play is just too simple for anyone to get involved for long. Stem had many obscure arcade games, including *Tazmania* (yet another standup which as nothing whatsoever to do with the cartoon of the same name), a *Robotron*: 2084-ish romp which is actually quite entertaining. Rockola entered the coin-op arena before wisely forging back into jukebox territory with *Eyes*, a clearly demented *Pac-Man* clone centered around a pair of innocuous peepers blasting other, more wicked optic nerves and blowing away odd twirly things. *The Glob* is perhaps the worst of these titles. I had the misfortune to play a ready-for-the-junkyard standup which was set up in a debug mode of sorts. The game, whether operative or not, still clearly blows, as the solidity of the enclosure theme just wasn't there and some rounds were just insanely unfair. Let's put it this way - it looks

like IBM shareware. Williams' *MakeTrax* isn't much better, with ear-piercingly shrill sound effects and user-abusive play controls. SNK's *Sky Soldiers* and *Sky Adventure* are two closely related blasters, and finally, *Mr. Do!* had a "last hurrah" in which he was confined to a *Crystal Castles/Pac-Man* type maze with spiked cylinders and the omnipresent power ball to save his hide. I still can't recall the name of this one. Anybody?

There are more that will still probably haunt me for the rest of my days, like that bubble in the sink game, or the coin-op where you have to blast swastikas with orbs in their centers, or Williams' 50 center which refused to show players any pre-game demos (!@#\$%), but some mysteries were never meant to be solved. Kind of like my ever-receding hairline at 20. Or maybe Sega's *Barney* game. Or why nobody's burned down the GamePro building. Or...



The Wacky World of AI

RARE 'WARE: THE GAMELINE SYSTEM

by Al Backiel

Soon, Sega will be launching a new cable TV system called The Sega Channel. Genesis owners will be able to download and play games from Sega's software library via their regular cable TV company. Sega is also forming another game network in conjunction with AT&T (The Edge 16) which will be interactive and accessed by modem. Sounds pretty high-tech, right? As the old cliche goes, this is "nothing new under the sun". Atari 2600 owners had a similar setup way back in 1983-84. This online was actually operating for about a year. For the \$50 start-up fee you got initial access and the Master Module which consisted of the following: The Master Module (modem), Owner's Manual (very user-friendly!), temporary game directory & instructions booklet (of about a dozen games, *Nexar* being the rarest), registration guide (an application card to join the service), and a few membership cards (you put your name and personal ID number on it). Also included was a duplex T-adaptor (for splitting the phone line) and one patch cord.

The MM is silver in color and larger than Starpath's Supercharger. The back bears the date of July 1983. A battery was required for high score memory. The people at CVC (Control Video Corporation out of Vienna, VA) were able to receive uploads from users with high scores as entries to monthly contests. This was the

closest this system got to being interactive.

What does this system do today? Practically nothing. You get to see two screens: the first says "- READ MANUAL - / - PRESS RESET -". The second is a flashing multicolor "CALLING" notifier. After that, you hear the autodialer kick in and attempt to reach a now non-existent phone number. A few more buzzes and clicks, then the screen goes blank.

The rest of the scenario would have gone something like this in 1983: You turn up a screen to log on by entering your PIN. The next screen is the game selection menu. You use the joystick to enter the three digit game code. The game is then downloaded to the Master Module and you're in business. Each game allows a number of plays (8 to 12) which decreases by one each time you press reset.

What killed the system? Obviously, the "Crash of '84". Why rent the same games that you could buy for practically nothing? Besides, the distribution was never that widespread. I found one too late in a video store where it was collecting dust on a

shelf. I paid \$5 for it. The dealer was happy to get it off his hands. It was the only one he had and I suspect it was on a trial basis. I did see another one for awhile in NYC's Port Authority Bus Terminal. Maybe a fellow collector picked it up?! GameLine was advertised heavily



Think "The Sega Channel" is something new? Check this out.

at the time in the various game mags. I, like probably many others, did not try to join directly, but adopted instead a "wait and see" attitude.

"What about overzealous youngsters running up phone charges?" you may be asking yourself. They thought about that too. Parents could establish credit limits with the company. Any minors wanting more time would have to bug mom and dad to bump up their limit. "What about tying up the phone?" No problemo. The actual transmit time was about 1 or 2 minutes, then the phone was free again. Since the programs were small (no more than 8K), I'm sure there would have been storage upgrades off into the future.

For all of you techies out there, here is what's under the hood of the Master Module:

- 1 - serial# PROM (proprietary encryption i.e. "security").
- 1 - 4K masked ROM (for menus).
- 1 - 2K CMOS RAM (processor for customer profile/high score).
- 4 - 2K RAMS (memory for downloaded games).
- 1 - Custom Digital IC (interface between MM & Atari VCS).
- 1 - PC board gold plated edge connector (port).

1 - modem circuitry (800-2000 BAUD capability, 900-1800 BPS transfer).

1 - battery connection (9V to hold onto high scores).

1 - calibration device (facilitates interface & includes memory writer).

1 - relay (dialer/phone switch hook).

1 - transformer (couples/isolates CVC & phone line).

1 - modular clip (female phone connection).

There were big plans to add on a whole range of services, if the thing took off. There were BBS (bulletin board systems) in the works for EMAIL, sports line, stock market, opinion line, news, home banking, and a general info line (plane schedules, travel, horoscope, classifieds, etc.).

What would have been a selling point for me was the talk of using the network to test-market new games. As a matter of fact, I heard a rumor that the never realeased Save the Whales was available at one time. If any readers out there were members, I'd love to hear from you. Maybe you could verify what software was really available and how many issues of the newsletter "Gameliner" were actually produced!



"PANIC" GAMES OF OLD

BY KEVIN OLENIACZ

Various degrees and forms of intensity are reflected in the vast library of "classic" games. Virtually all but the lamest of shooters are addictive for these systems, since the controls are so easy to master. Some famous arcade favorites such as *Defender*, *Centipede* and *Asteroids* were produced for multiple systems.

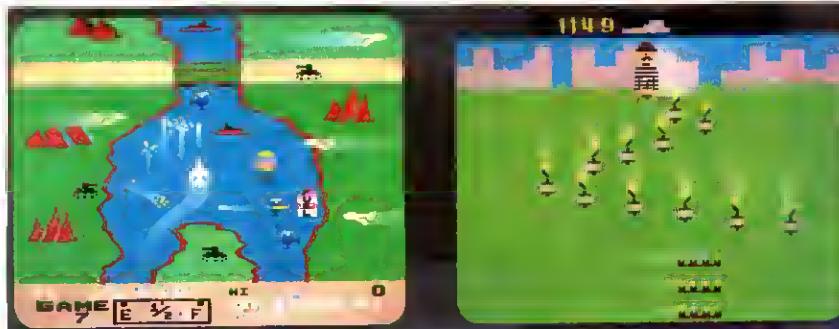
Unfortunately, games from the "intense" mold are highly concentrated within the Atari 2600 library. I'll touch upon a brief synopsis of games in this genre, right here, right now.

Atari designed several games along the lines of the

venerable coin-op *Breakout*, *Super Breakout* (2600, 5200) the obvious successor, and *Off the Wall* (see review). *Jinks* (7800) sports a very limited voice and has bizarre

music, a variety of options, and flexible gameplay which includes selectable screens. Arcadia/Starpad designed *Fireball* (2600), which hosts a slew of options and some unusual brick configurations. The Emerson Arcadia 2001 even offered a clone called *Breakaway*, a horizontal version of *Breakout*.

Let's not forget one of the best *Breakout* spin-offs of all time, Magnavox's *Blockout/Breakdown*, which also has two player competitive, simultaneous action. Along similar lines are two closely patterned Atari VCS games: *Ram It* by Telesys and *Squeeze Box* by US Games both require you to shoot blocks that are moving in on your character. The game ends when you are crushed to death by the approaching bricks!



TWO classic "panic" games oft-imitated but never duplicated: Activision's *River Raid* and *Kaboom!*

Classic gamers are familiar with Activision's *Kaboom!* (2600, 5200) where one catches bombs continually dropped to earth by a madman. In the 2600's library, *Boom Bang* (Rainbowvision) an Australian import, is a reverse version of *Kaboom!* and sports major graphic alterations to its American cousin. Other descendants of *Kaboom!* include Activision's own *Crackpots* (falling bugs), US Games' *Eggomania* (falling eggs), Apollo's *Lost Luggage* (falling suitcases), and Telesys' *Coconuts* (falling coconuts). Mattel's *Astrosmash* for the Intellivision and *Astroblast* for the 2600 offer a similar play mechanic but incorporate a chaotic shooting theme as well. All the world loved the "shoot 'em" style of *Astroblast*, as is evidenced by overseas games like Dimax' *Astro War* and ITT's *Meteor Defense*, both of which are *Astroblast* going sideways. *The Music Machine* by Sparrow (2600) stresses moral values throughout, but even non-christians can spot its obvious connection to *Kaboom!*

*Q*Bert* is another of the "rush" games - you have to change all of the blocks on a 3D pyramid to one color while being pursued from all angles. Inspired by (ripped off from?) the *Q*Bert* genre is *Boing!* (First Star) and *Rabbit Transit* (Starpath) for the 2600, where the lovable animal-thing is replaced by a bubble and a bunny wabbit, respectively. A more worthy sequel is *Q*Bert's Qubes*, a game Parker Bros. released for both the 2600 and ColecoVision. Both are rare finds. Another gem in this pack is *Imagic's Quick Step*, a dual player masterpiece involving many twists and dirty tricks. Atari VCS exclusives: *Dragon Defender* combines air and ground based attacks in the *Defender* vein. *Gas Hog* by Spectravision employs a split-screen and is reminiscent of the classic *Moon Patrol*. Following on the footsteps of the coin-op *Gyruss* is *The Challenge of Naxar* (Spectravision), *Spacemaster X-7* (a dandy by 20th Century Fox), and the import *Spider*.



CBS' Mountain King

sandwiches or die in Activision's *Pressure Cooker*. *Plague Attack* (Activision) and *Tooth Protectors* (DRD) require defending teeth from junk food - a perfect follow-up to any of the above food-related games.

The Vectrex deals almost exclusively in this genre. *Asteroids*, whose vector style graphics inspired an era, also provides the premise to many of GCE's releases. *Bedlam* is much like *Asteroids* with your ship anchored at center-screen. *Cosmic Chasm* is *Asteroids* one room at a time. The built-in game *Mine Storm* is as close to *Asteroids* as you get without calling it that. Non-*Asteroid* related games such as *Star Castle* and *Star Hawk* are arcade coin-ops. While the incredible vector arcade game *Tempest* never made it to a home system, Vectrex owners were treated to *Web Wars*, a palatable substitute.

There are a few others worth mentioning. *Sinistar*, a 2600 prototype by Atari is unpolished but reflects the hectic pace of the coin-op. CBS' *Mountain King* redefines "panic", excellent on both the 2600 & 5200. *Bomb's Wall Defender* (2600) requires one to save a fortress from destruction. *War Room* (ColecoVision) is a frantic *Missile Command* hybrid. *Tapper* (2600, ColecoVision) is based on the hit coin-op. The Astrocade's *Incredible Wizard*, along with CBS' *Wizard of Wor* (2600, 5200), are "can't miss" dual player delights, as is *Entombed* by US Games (2600). Astrocade's *Cosmic Raiders* is similar to *Defender*. Activision's *Worm Whopper* is arguably the most intense game ever produced for the Intellivision. If fast-paced frenzy games are your cup of tea, you can't go wrong on the Atari 2600 and Vectrex, but you'd be hard pressed to find enough to do on other classic systems.

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Jaguar



BY JOE
SANTULLI, THE
ONE WITH
BLEEDING EYES

This month, you will read countless reviews of Atari's *Tempest 2000* for the Jaguar. Undoubtedly, the pro mags will gush over its intense speed and addictiveness. They'll orgasm over the techno music, calling it "revolutionary". And I'm almost positive that just about every fanzine in publication will do the same, marvelling over the graphics and flashy, pyrotechnic effects. You'd expect more than that from me, though, wouldn't you? Sorry, I agree with them this time. *Tempest 2000* is a wonder to behold.

Twelve years ago, I was in the prime of my youth. It was sophomore year at Lakeland Regional High. While most of my peers were spending their Friday nights partying and learning about the opposite sex, I could be found in a run-down diner playing

Absolutely WICKED! I never really got into the arcade game much, but if it was anything like this I wonder why! Best music I've ever heard in a game, and it's FAST!



Schulz

Atari

Element	Joe	Kevin	Bill	Karl	Liz	Howie	Simultaneous Multi-Play	Saves Data to Cart
Graphics	8	8	8	7	8	9		
Sound	10	8	10	9	10	10	Sightseeing Game Ending	Hidden Areas
Gameplay	10	9	8	9	8	9		
Overall	9	9	8	9	8	9	Variable Skill Levels	Nonlinear Gameplay

Tempest. At the tender age of seventeen I was a gambling lad, taken in by the sights, the sounds... the *smells* of horse racing. Accompanied by a similar misfit of adolescence, we'd cruise to the Meadowlands after work, gamble a portion of the week's earnings, then make the inevitable "last stop" of each week's odyssey: the Oakland Diner. These pages couldn't possibly fit all of the anecdotes I could share with you about this armpit of society, but it was here that I learned the wonders of *Tempest*. It's stark backgrounds, simple geometric playfields, and uncomplicated controls belied the true power of the game. It was - and is - the consummate shooter. Addictive, fast-paced, powerful, and completely uncomplicated. *Tempest* doesn't

even have a boss, nor are there any power-ups in the game. This to me is what gaming is all about - there's no "beating" it. It just gets harder and harder until it beats you. You got a good score? That's nice.

When the Atari 5200 came to town shortly afterwards, it seemed that *Tempest* might come home. Advertisements prepped 5200 owners for the arcade experience in the comfort of your own easy chair. Alas, this would never really happen, as Atari had obvious difficulties with the vector to raster translation (I own a prototype of *Battlezone*, and it's just as well they didn't finish it). The closest we ever really got was *Web Wars* for the Vectrex, which was impressive graphically and played a pretty mean game, but it wasn't

(Continued on page 21)



Oleniacz

Tempest 2000 has a fresh look. On the surface, the vector graphics do not impress, but the rotation, fading and other effects break new ground for the industry.

Collector Notes

YOU CANNOT OWN A JAGUAR AND NOT OWN THIS GAME. FORGET ABOUT COLLECTIONS FOR NOW, AND JUST ADD THIS ONE TO YOURS.

Power Users

WHEN SELECTING A GAME, HOLD 1, 4, 7, AND *, AND PRESS A. YOU'LL HEAR "EXCELLENT". NOW YOU CAN JUST SKIP THE LEVEL WHENEVER YOU WANT BY PRESSING OPTION. YOU CAN ALSO SKIP TO THE BONUS STAGE NOW BY HOLDING 3, 6, 9, AND # DURING ANY STAGE, AND PRESS OPTION TO SKIP RIGHT TO THE BONUS STAGE.

Origin

ATARI GAME DESIGNER DAVE THEURER DESIGNED THE COIN-OP, AT FIRST ATTEMPTING TO CREATE A "FIRST-PERSON" *SPACE INVADERS*. *TEMPEST* EVOLVED AS THEURER IMPROVISED, BASED ON HIS OWN GAMING FANCY TO "BLOW THINGS UP". THE REST IS HISTORY.

METEORITES

Atari 5200

BY PET ROCK
CULTIVATOR KEVIN
OLENIACZ



If you're familiar with the arcade classic *Asteroids* (i.e. you haven't been hiding under a rock all these years), then you already know the concept behind *Meteorites*. Allow me to summarize.

You control a triangular ship which initially begins in the dead center of the playfield. Use your joystick to thrust forward. Reversing direction and thrusting slows your momentum. In round one, three large asteroids travel vertically, and slowly drift towards you. Shoot one and it splits into two smaller meteorites which veer off into different directions and gain velocity. Shoot one again and several tiny meteorites are created. Their stature has diminished but they're still deadly, as all collisions are fatal. A UFO crosses the screen at regular intervals. Avoid its missiles. Besides firing upon it, the astroids can also pulverize a UFO, but this will result

Electra Concepts

Element	Joe	Kevin	Bill	Karl	Liz	Howie
Graphics	6	7	5	5	6	7
Sound	5	6	5	4	6	6
Gameplay	7	7	7	7	6	7
Overall	6	7	6	5	6	7

Shooter

One-Player Multi-Player	Yes	Yes
Soundtrack Customizable	Yes	Yes
Variable Skill Levels	Yes	Yes

in no additional points. Warp by pressing the extra controller button. You have the ability to wrap around the screen but gravity is absent. The pace quickens with the passage of time. Advance to the next round by clearing all of the meteorites.

Twenty-four progressively difficult levels await to test your skills. The eye-pleasing but simple vector graphics of *Asteroids* are replaced by alluring luminescent raster scan graphics. Other than this, *Meteorites* mirrors the popular coin-op, from the repetitious but addictive gameplay down to the nerve-wracking, pulsating beat. Dedicated *Asteroids* addicts who were given the cold shoulder by Atari (who produced 2600 and 7800 versions but no 5200 version) should be deeply satisfied with this translation. The horrendous

controllers (which wreak havok on the appeal of many other 5200 releases) have a minimal effect on this game. However, when compared to the 5200 library, this is above average at best.

Constructed by a relative newcomer to home videogames, I expected improvements or modifications to the original, rather than a carbon copy. Why didn't they alter that irritating music? Why not add new foes besides flying saucers? Did selectable options ever cross the programmers' minds (other than two-player competitive mode)? Electra Concepts can be partially forgiven for their lack of originality as they specialized in peripherals (the appealing but elusive Masterplay Interface comes to mind). All in all, *Meteorites* is an admirable clone of the favorite coin-op but falls quite a bit short in depth.



Asteroids was a great game, but it hasn't really improved much here. Also, with all of the innovations in shooters, I don't think this kind of game has stood the test of time.

I remember spending some quality time at the arcades playing games like this one, but I wouldn't spend five minutes at home with it now.

YOUNGMAN

Collector Notes

METEORITES is probably the toughest Atari 5200 title to find (with the exception of prototype carts). The current Guide lists it at \$20, but expect to see it rise soon.

Power Users

Just like in *Asteroids*, your best strategy is to clear all but one or two meteorites, and wait in a corner for the UFOs. They're worth the most points, and you can use hyperspace with less fear when you're about to be hit.

Origin

Two Atari think-tanks, Lyle Rains (who designed the concept) and Ed Logg (who programmed the game) are behind the original coin-op. *Asteroids* inspired a multitude of clones, games called *Space Fury* and *Mine Storm* and *Suicide Mission* among many others.

TOMCAT ALLEY

Sega CD



THIS MISSION LED
BY COL. WILLIAM
SCHULTZ

Finally, a CD game that shows off some of the things all of us gamers have been looking forward to when the Sega CD came out some year and a half ago. *Tomcat Alley* has restored my faith in the Sega CD.

In *TCA*, you are Shadow Force Five, a junior flyboy controlling the weapons on a state-of-the-art F-16 fighter plane. Shadow Force is a branch of the U.S.A.F. (a secret one) functioning out of a hidden base in the desert and attempting to stop a mad Russian colonel from trying to destroy the world. Even though the Russians are now our allies, some people (especially mad colonels) don't adapt to change very well. Your job is to blow MiGs out of the sky while protecting your friends and countrymen from a new chapter in Communism and global domination.

TCA takes the things that made me want to buy a Sega CD and puts them all into one neat little package. This CD can be best described as a cross between *Sewer Shark* and *Cobra Command*, but goes one better. Hey gang, this is a real-life version of *Afterburner* - with real

Definitely one of the better Sega CD efforts. I enjoy FMV games more than the next guy, though. Some of the explosion scenes are really cheesy! Model parts all over!



J. SANTULLI

Collector Notes

We've played every Sega CD game there is, and to date, *Tomcat Alley* falls in the top 5. If you enjoy full motion video games, games like *Cobra Command*, or dig "B" movies with bad acting, buy this one. Otherwise, at least rent it.

Sega

Element	Joe	Kevin	Bill	Karl	Liz	Howie	Score	Difficulty	Score
Graphics	8	9	9	9	9	10	Multi-Player	Hidden Areas	Non-Linear
Sound	9	9	9	9	9	10	Significant Game Ending	Variable Skill Levels	Linear Gameplay
Gameplay	7	8	8	7	9	8			
Overall	8	8	8	8	9	9			

people, real (model) plane footage, and real explosions.

The graphics are nothing short of amazing. You feel as though you're living inside the F-16 Tom Cruise flew in *Top Gun*. Credit this to Sega, who in their infinite wisdom has figured out how to use the whole screen for the FMV rather than a small section surrounded by flight controls. The only thing I can find fault with is that sometimes the color is muddled into monotone shades of blue or grey.. but hey, you can't have everything on a system that wasn't designed to do everything. The actors in the game give credible performances, something that has been lacking in other Sega CD games.

The sound is excellent. Pumping through my stereo, I feel like I am in that plane. The explosions can make my walls rattle (an indicator I use to determine how good the sound is). The background music is decent, but it won't get your rockets off.

Keep in mind that this is a shooter and not a simulator. The coolest thing about this game is that all you have to worry about is blowing



things up while avoiding enemy fire. You can avoid enemy fire by dropping chaff, which will deter enemy missiles. Careful, flyboy, you only have a limited amount of these, so use them sparingly! To score a kill, use the D-pad to line up an enemy target. A "lock" indicator will appear - fire any one of four different weapons (two air to air or two air to surface). If you launch when the lock is on, you'll blow 'em to smithereens! Blow a shot and you'll probably have a Ruse on your tail.

I could go on forever about how much I enjoyed *TCA*. Okay, so sometimes it's a bit repetitive, and you can learn what's going to happen after you play it a few times, but it doesn't really matter. There is a certain "randomness" to the game that prevents it from being a memorization game, and that's what counts to me. *TCA* is the best game to come to the Sega CD in a long time. Movie buffs and shooter fans will surely want to earn their wings with this game. Happy Hunting!



Can you say "Top Gun"? *Tomcat Alley* will remind you of a certain Tom Cruise movie, with you in the lead role. The explosions are great and the action is just right.

Power Users

You can usually get out of danger simply by running from it. If you see the indicators to engage a new enemy on the screen, go for it.

Origin

An obvious spin-off of *Cobra Command* - you don't fly the plane, just fire the guns. The looks are reminiscent of *Afterburner*.

Off The Wall

Atari 2600

BY KEVIN "I STILL
LIKE PONG"
OLENIACZ



Dating back to the infancy of videogaming, the concept of hitting a ball to knock out bricks was originally illustrated in the arcades in a game called *Breakout*. With *Off the Wall*, Atari improved upon this theme. It was introduced in the late '80's, when Atari initiated a feeble comeback for the 2600.

Solo or competing against a friend, knock out all of the bricks or nail the dragon (situated at the extreme top of the playfield) six times to gain an additional life and advance to the next round. A blackbird soars between the player and the multi-faceted brick wall, acting as a barrier to deflect your shots.

During gameplay, five special tokens fall frequently. Acquire a distinct limited power whenever one of these is captured. Distorted "raindrop" icons can enlarge your paddle, represented by a boy clutching a staff. "Bombs" will allow the ball to take out large

I wasn't playing video games when "Breakout" was popular, so I'm really new at this. I like the way this game plays. It's easy to get addicted to because you know you can do better.



L Santilli

Atari

Element	Joe	Kevin	Bill	Karl	Liz	Howie	Smoothness	Score Data
Graphics	6	5	5	5	6	7	Multi-Play	10 Lives
Sound	5	5	4	5	5	6	Background	Hidden Actions
Gameplay	8	8	7	5	7	8	Variable Skill Levels	Scoreboard
Overall	7	7	6	5	7	7		

chunks of the wall. "Z"'s force the ball to travel in a zig-zag pattern. "M"'s allow the ball to be controlled as a "guided missile" while it obtains magnetic qualities on its return path. Since the latter is the most powerful feature, it's no surprise that it lasts half as long as others. Last but not least is the "?" symbol which will randomly produce one of the four other effects. You can get an extra life or bonus points when you catch the "?", and on occasion it will also immobilize the bird or speed up the ball.

Completing four waves initiates advancement to the next level of difficulty. I discovered that all classic games in this genre seem are also highly addictive. Back when this idea was fresh and original I spent many afternoons practicing *Breakout*. Some adjustments were necessary to keep up with gamers' growing appetite for challenge and variety. I believe Atari

successfully met these demands with *Off the Wall*. There appears, however, to be a few quirks worth mentioning.

Occasionally, even on the easiest level, the ball tends to unexpectedly speed up significantly and revert to a new angle. As a result, you cannot react quickly enough and the ball zips past you. You have to wait for the score to accumulate when a life is lost or at the conclusion of the round. The graphics are minimal. These include the blackbird and dragon, which could be mistaken for a bat and a worm, respectively if not for the instruction manual's statements to the contrary. In addition, the ball and all of the special items are accompanied by imitating flashing. Gameplay is the most important factor on games like this one, and it outweighs *Off the Wall*'s shortcomings. It is one of the better offerings in this genre.



This game wouldn't set the world on fire, but it is fun. The fast gameplay is cool, but I still prefer the original "paddle" at the bottom.

Schultz

Collector Notes

RELEASED WHEN ATARI ATTEMPTED A 2600 COMEBACK IN THE LATE 1980'S, *Off the Wall* IS NEITHER RARE NOR IS IT ESPECIALLY COLLECTIBLE. THE CURRENT DP GUIDE VALUE IS \$8, AND IT CAN USUALLY BE FOUND IN ITS BOX.

Power Users

GREED WILL BE THE DOWNFALL OF MOST PLAYERS IN THIS GAME. TRY NOT TO BE DISTRACTED BY THE NUMEROUS POWER-UPS. CONCENTRATE ON THE BALL!

Origin

A DIRECT DESCENDANT OF *BREAKOUT*, A POPULAR COIN-OP IN THE MID-1970'S. *Off the Wall* ALSO STEALS SOME OF THE IDEAS THAT MADE THE 80'S COIN-OP SMASH *ARAKNOD* SUCCESSFUL (POWER UPS).

Sub-Terrania

Genesis



**BLASTS
SUPPLIED BY BILL
SCHULTZ**

Sub-Terrania is a hybrid offspring of a couple of games that go WAY back. It seems to be across between Atari's *Asteroids* and *Space Wars*. Actually, the more you play this game, the more influences from early arcade classics you'll spot. The classics seem to have had a major impact on the designers of this game.

The premise of *Sub-Terrania* is pretty basic. In your high tech subterranean craft you must explore a distant moon's many treacherous cavems and save the lives of the humans held captive there by more nasty aliens. Believe me when I tell you that this is no easy feat.

This cartridge may be one of the most frustrating to come down the electronic gaming highway for quite some time. You have to guide your craft through craggy rock-strewn cavems loaded with hostile enemy craft and power-up items

Plays like a cross between *Asteroids* and *Gravitar*. The action is far more intense than either of these. The sound could have used some improvement.



Hirsch

Collector Notes

This game has been getting a lot of press from Sega (see the contest flyer attached), but it's not for everyone - RENT IT FIRST.

Sega

Element	Joe	Kevin	Bill	Karl	Liz	Howie	Surprisingly Good Play	Great Cart Value
Graphics	8		7	8	8	8		
Sound	6		7	8	7	7	Significant Sound Enhanc.	Hidden Areas
Gameplay	8		7	7	6	8		
Overall	8		7	7	7	8	Variable Skill Levels	Not Bad Gameplay

you'll find essential to completing each stage. The problem with this is that you are doing all of this shooting and collecting in zero-gravity with only front and back thrusters to propel you. The controller's directional pad rotates your ship while the front and back thrusters (controlled with the B button) determine how fast you move and where. The A and C buttons fire weapons. The fact that you are floating in space much like *Asteroids* makes it difficult to fight aliens that are anchored in place on cavem walls or robots whose arms can stretch out and smash you in a heartbeat. Fortunately, some protection comes in the form of a shield that automatically raises whenever you hit rock walls or are attacked. On the down side, this shield doesn't last very long. If you don't master the controls, you won't last twenty seconds between ships!



Shooter

The graphics are decent but nothing out of the ordinary for Sega action games. They're reminiscent of an older game, *Herzog Zwei* - which isn't to say they're bad, but since *Herzog Zwei* is one of the first games produced for the Genesis, I'd expect better from a cart manufactured in 1994. The sound is likewise disappointing. It's nothing more than what you'd expect from your 8-bit NES. I have my Genesis hooked up to a killer 200 watt stereo system with tower speakers and still the sound is weak.

Sub-T is a tough game, and that is its strength. What it's lacking is that audiovisual flair that truly is a must in shooters. My final analysis? If you're looking for a lot of rock 'em sock 'em action and don't mind a degree of frustration, *Sub-Terrania* is worth a look. A highly addictive contest awaits.



L Santulli

Wow, this game is hard! Once you understand how to move around you've still got those aliens to attend to. It's fun, but not my cup of tea.

Power Users

When fighting the last boss in the game, stay low and don't spare any of your weapons. It will take all of your patience and concentration to down this ugly SOB.

Origin

Draws inspiration from *Asteroids*, *Gravitar*, and *Defender*, but still has a different feel.

ALIEN BRIGADE

Atari 7800



BY A
REASONABLE
FACSIMILE OF
KEVIN OLENIACZ

Alien Brigade is a fine example of a well-constructed 7800 title with all the qualities of a top-notch arcade game. Rather than adding another run-of-the-mill galactic shooter, Atari designed a first-person rescue mission along the lines of *Operation: Wolf* and its ilk.

Your goal is to mutilate the aliens patrolling the surroundings. Some are disguised as friendly soldiers and are easily distinguished by their slow gait. Others operate helicopters, river boats, tanks, and other military vehicles. Along the way, you can gather ammo, weapons, energy, and food rations as well as rescue hostages. If you can survive the five scenarios (jungle camp, river resort, underwater, cave, and mountain base) and defeat the queen alien, all of mankind will be saved.

Undoubtedly, the challenge is here. You can't get a moment's break from the

Takes me back to the days of *Operation: Wolf*, but *Alien Brigade* is more fun.



YOUNGMAN

Collector Notes

As with most Atari 7800 titles, *Alien Brigade* isn't all that difficult to find, and you should be able to get it in a box, sealed, for less than \$10.

One of those highly playable collectibles.

Atari

Element	Joe	Kevin	Bill	Karl	Liz	Howie	Comments	Score Data
Graphics	g	g	8	8	8	g	Cartoonish background	1000000000
Sound	8	7	7	8	7	g	Sound effects background	Hidden Areas
Gameplay	8	g	8	8	9	g	Variable Skill Levels	Non-linear play
Overall	g	g	8	8	8	g		

constant barrage of alien attack. The enemy displays a number of mannerisms and tactics, such as ducking in doorways and appearing up-close in your face. For the most part the graphics are cartoony, but well defined. They even appear comical at times. The sound effects are par for the course. Since the embedded circuitry of the Atari 7800 does not possess extraordinary audio capabilities, my expectations weren't very high.

The reason why I give this shooter high ratings is due to the incredible gameplay. Although repetitious in nature, the selection of weapons along with a high volume of activity and very pleasing graphics support this exceptional effort by Atari. I could pop this cart in at any time, time and time again without getting bored.

In addition to a selection of arms, specialty weapons are equipped within

certain scenarios. For example, a dart gun is available only during the underwater sequence. Returning to reality, one has the option of utilizing either a joystick (to guide an onscreen crosshair) or a light gun. Since no light gun was designed specifically for the 7800, the Atari XE model will do. Unlike many light-gun games, the response is fast and accurate. I would recommend the light gun approach in a session of *Alien Brigade*.

My gripe, albeit a minor one, is that in some instances it's impossible to avoid getting shot, as several bullets fly at you instantaneously. I can almost guarantee that no gamer will grow weary after a few sittings of *Alien Brigade*!



J. SANTULLI

One of my favorite 7800 games! The light gun doesn't work as well as the joystick crosshairs, but either way, the game is a blast. Excellent assortment of enemies.

Power Users

DON'T BE TRIGGER HAPPY! CONSERVE AMMO. DON'T SHOOT HOSTAGES, MARINE LIFE, MERMAIDS, PANTHERS, OR FIRE ENGINES OR YOU WILL LOSE POINTS.

Origin

Coin-ops with a built-in gun (as you would imagine *Alien Brigade* was meant to be played) date as far back as *Crossbow*, but this title is much more reminiscent of *Operation: Wolf*.

Random reviews

LITE

FAST FOOD TELESYS, FOR ATARI 2600

Imagine french fries, soft drinks, pizza, ice cream and other fattening goodies flying at you at accelerated speeds. Doesn't this sound like a teenager's dream? This dream is transformed into a nightmare in this 2600 game. You control a pair of lips, catching a variety of sweets and savory treats. In later rounds it's impossible to catch all of the food, so concentrate on the higher value items (cheeseburgers, pizza, and fries). Swallow three purple pickles, and the game ends, leaving you with a bad case of indigestion. The graphics, set against a black background, are very clean and crisp. Although simple, Fast Food is quite addictive and is arguably the most intense title for the 2600. Definitely recommended. Quickly snatch up this title the first chance you can.

- Kevin Oleniacz



PEPPER II COLECO, FOR COLECOVISION

There is a certain undefined qualitative mix of intangibles which make or break a game. I cannot substantiate the precise reasoning behind my high rating of *Pepper II*. Perhaps it is the pressurized task of encircling grid sections while being pursued relentlessly by hostile creatures. Maybe it is the supporting sonorous classical overtures in conjunction with the renowned Hitchcock theme. The "Zipper Ripper" adds appeal as it engulfs loose segments of your trail around the grid. Overall, this is a "can't miss" for the ColecoVision. Rumor has it that this game exists in prototype form for the Atari 2600 as well.

- Kevin Oleniacz



TAZ ATARI, FOR ATARI 2600

The object of *Taz* is to chow down on all of the food items while avoiding the indigestion caused by eating a stick of dynamite. There are eight alternating, scrolling rows on the screen. The sprites are well-depicted while *Taz* himself is shown as a whirlwind. Since each level features a different food item, it's a hoot just to get it to switch to the next one. *Taz* starts off slowly and builds in difficulty until you reach around 33,000 points and the "crazed wave". At this point the game goes ballistic. It's as if somebody floored the gas pedal - you're now playing an extremely intense contest. The greatest challenge is to clear each of the levels three times. If you succeed, you get to see a "mystery dessert". I, myself have only gone through once. A friend of mine managed to get through twice. It seems like it may not be humanly possible (a challenge to all DP readers follows!). There are no intermissions besides the short, crazed wave announcement screen. Collector's note: there is a European version of this game called *Asterix*. The game play is identical, but the sprites are related to the ancient Roman theme the comic strip character inhabits.

- Al Backiel



METEOR DEFENSE ITT, FOR ATARI 2600

Oddly shaped meteors horizontally accelerate toward your spaceship. Avoiding them will detract points while firing will split them in half. Toss in some deadly UFO's and torpedoes and what we have here is the constituents of... another generic galactic shooter! If it weren't for the strong addictive factor associated with the hectic pace, *Meteor Defense* would pass as just another dud. Every graphic is snow white with only the solid background color shifting with the start of each new round. This game is identical to Dimax' *Astrowar* and the commonly seen *Astroblast* (which works vertically rather than horizontally) by M-Network for the Atari VCS.

- Kevin Oleniacz



ROBOTRON: 2084 ATARI, FOR ATARI 7800

An experiment that went wrong! The humans created the Robotrons - robots who think and act on their own. They thought too much - and acted worse. *Robotron: 2084* gives you all of the frantic action and play as the coin-op. It's up to you to rid these mutants with your (what else) anti-robot laser, while trying to capture any survivors you can. Wave after wave you'll be bombarded with a screen full of enemies, not all of which can even BE destroyed. This game has non-stop action - about the only time you get a break is when you press the pause button. The 7800 version handles the graphics very well, placing well over fifty moving objects onscreen with no sign of flicker or slowdown. Early on, Atari was claiming that over one hundred objects were onscreen at once. You can use two joysticks like in the Williams arcade version, although I prefer to use just one. Either way, you'll be coming back for more, as this fast-paced gem has exceptional game play value. An excellent showcase piece for the 7800.

- Edward Villalpando



WORM WHOMPER ACTIVISION, FOR INTELLIVISION

What?!? A "rush-rush" game on the Intellivision? I don't remember any... oh, there was that ONE. That bug game, right? Yeah! For you charter member DP subscribers, you may remember a little "closet classic" called *Worm Whomper*, mentioned in an early issue. You know, this is one of those games that never gets OLD. Do you like *Missile Command*? *Worm Whomper* is basically the same game, but it's more frantic. It starts out so slow that you'll be fooled into thinking it's an easy game. You have to eliminate an increasingly ferocious insect attack, aimed at your precious crops. It's just a few 'lil inchworms at first, then some caterpillars, then snails (who drop shells that block shots and incoming pests or slime that warps bugs forward), slugs, moths (tough targets!), and cornsnakes. By the tenth round you'll be gasping for a break - and it's just starting to get tough! A must-play by Activision's Tom Loughry, who also designed *The Dreadnaught Factor*, another ripping game.

- Joe Santulli



TEMPEST 2000

(Continued from page 14)

Tempest. Nor were the countless imitators found on home computers for a few years. Then the Nintendo came along, then the 16-bit wars. Then CD-ROM game systems. Still no *Tempest*.

Three months ago I was running at the mouth about how my Atari Jaguar was nothing but a great funnel for dust. I absolutely loathed *Cybermorph*, and it was easily the best of the four initial Jag games produced by Atari. Even *Tempest 2000*, a distant beam of light in distance, didn't seem like it would be enough to sell this system. I'm a man who can admit when he's wrong, and I was. The smartest thing Atari could do right now is pack this game in with every Jaguar. They wouldn't be able to keep up with the sales.

If nothing else, *Tempest 2000* brings the arcade experience home at last. Actually, the "traditional" version of *Tempest* is a bit tepid - much slower and less aggressive than the coin-op ever was. But the new version, "*Tempest 2000*", makes the coin-op look like the relic it is. This game is fast. It has CD-quality music, power-ups, bonus levels, and the wildest, most frantic gameplay I've seen in years. If it sounds like I'm gushing, that's because I am. I'm thoroughly addicted to this game.

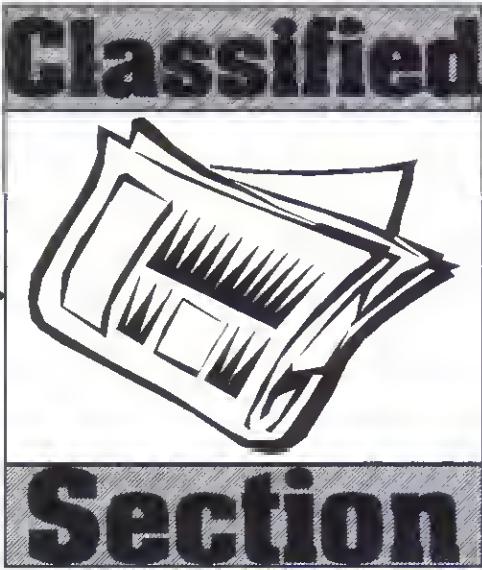
It's not the perfect shooter it once was, but only because it still appears Atari cut some corners. For example - the music, which is probably the best I've ever heard in a videogame, consists of a mere four main tracks. There are a few others, heard in bonus rounds and in the demos, but they're inconsequential. The rippin' techno that actually made Kevin Oleniacz' eyes bulge when he first heard it is played for sixteen levels at a time before it changes. I would have preferred shorter pieces and more of them. I also think the bonus levels could have been more inventive, although they certainly are eye-catching. My final nit is the overall display, which at its most frantic is too cluttered to see what the hell is in front of you. I guess that's the price you pay for a game that's this hectic.

My Jaguar now sits poised to take over the shelf where my Super NES has held a spot for over two years. I'm starting to think of Nintendo's unit as the dust gatherer and the U.S. console as the worthy challenger. Let's see who has that enviable shelf position at year's end. For now, I'm thrilled with *Tempest 2000*, and all I have to say is "YES! YES! YES! YESYESYES!"

WHO'S GOING TO THE SCES?

If you're planning to go to the show this summer, please get in touch! Maybe we can hook up there - we'll probably be lodging in the comfort of the Quality Inn at Downtown Chicago, like last year. So if you don't know until the last minute, look us up when you get there.

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WANTED: Electronic Games magazine #1 & 5; Atarian (all issues). Atari 2600: Cakewalk, X-Man, Cannon Man, Guardian. Atari 5200: Beamrider, Masterplay Interface, and any prototypes with full lab labels. **FOR TRADE:** 2600 Fatal Run, Forest, Sports Action Pak (HES), BMX Airmaster (TNT). All are new and in PAL format. Kevin Oleniacz, 96 Buena Vista Dr, Ringwood, NJ 07456.

SEND \$1 FOR A SAMPLE of The 2600 Connection, the newsletter for Atari 2600 VCS owners - featuring 100% coverage! The 2600 Connection, PO Box N664, Westport, MA 02790-0606.

FOR SALE: One Vectrex multi-cart, with most of the Vectrex titles plus diagnostic test: \$70. This is the same cartridge sold by Sean Kelly. Other exceptional values: Atari 2600 Bridge \$8, Activision Checkers \$9, Coconuts \$5, Double Dunk (new) \$5, Encounter at L-5 \$6, Flash Gordon \$8, Frostbite \$7, Megaforce \$6, Mogul Maniac \$12, Skateboardin' \$5, Solaris (new) \$5, Spiderdroid (in box) \$5, Tax Avoiders (in box) \$12, Worm War I \$6. Atari 7800 \$5 each, NEW: Ace of Aces, Asteroids, Hat Trick, Karateka, One-on-One, Robotron 2084, Super Huey, Tower Toppler. ColecoVision War Room \$9. Vectrex Hyperchase (with overlay) \$8. **WANTED:** Boxes for most of Imagic's Intellivision games, and all Coleco game boxes for ColecoVision titles. Also wanted: "weird stuff" - mugs, t-shirts, hats, watches, posters, patches, etc. i.e. anything videogame related but not videogames. Joe Santulli, 44 Hunter Pl, Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442.

WRITE FDR INFDRMATION on different games and other stuff!! Send for videogame address/phone/fax list. Only \$2.00. Lists third-party addresses, game magazine addresses, game tip hotlines, and much, much, more. Just send \$2.00 cash or check to Tommy Donoho, 1804 Tony Lane, Wichita, KS, 67212-1578.

FOR SALE: Paperboy for SMS, includes box and manual - \$8.00; also Super C for NES, includes box and manual - \$8.00. Shipping is free! Write Shawn Surmick, 25 Truman Ct., Boyertown, PA 19512.

FDR SALE: Game cartridges, manuals, hardware, and more. Hundreds of titles in stock for Atari 2600, 5200, 7800, ColecoVision/ADAM, Intellivision, Ddyssey2. Fred Horvat, PD Box 493, Chesterland, OH 44026. (216) 729-0761.

WANTED: Atari 2600 games! Atari Video Cube, Boing, Cakewalk, Catch Time, Crazy Climber, Custer's Revenge, Frogger II, Halloween, Klax, Texas Chainsaw Massacre, Any HES games, Beamrider, Mr. Do!, Any Playaround games, Bumper Bash, Chuck Norris Superkicks, Color Bar Generator, Condor Attack, Gas Hog, Gravitar (silver label), Any Bomb games, Any Answer games, Marine Wars, Mr. Do's Castle, DBerts Dubes, River Patrol, Rubik's Cube, Sky Patrol, Submarine Commander. Please write: Louis Percapio, 21 Harrison Place, Hawthorne, NJ 07506. (201) 427-2955.

FDR SALE OR TRADE: Atari 2600 games, sealed in box: London Blitz, Beat 'Em and Eat 'Em, Towering Inferno, Taiwan Bowling, Taiwan Seesaw, Taiwan Pele's Soccer. Loose ColecoVision carts: Cabbage Patch Kids, James Bond, Roc N Rope, Mr. Do, Time Pilot, Wargames. Loose 5200 carts: Countermeasure, Blue Print, Jungle Hunt, Vanguard, Kaboom!, Star Raiders, Space Invaders. Lots more, just write: Marlin Bates, 2751 S. Norfolk Apt 113, San Mateo, CA 94403.

WANTED: Buy or trade: Atari 2600: any prototype, Sinistar, Pigs in Space, Klax, Montezuma's, 007, Slots, Slot Machine, Crazy

Climber, Quadrup, Pengo, Asterix, All Sesame Street, Muppet, or Disney, Gremlins, Track & Field, 32 in 1, Plaque Attack, Pressure Cooker, Private Eye, Beamrider, Cosmic Commuter, Commando, River Raid II, Rampage, Double Dragon, Absolute, Dubes, GI Joe, Tapper, Frogger II, Blueprint, Mountain King, Bank Heist, X-7, Earth Dies, Frankenstein's Monster, Gas Hog, Mangia, Tigervision, X-Rated, Froggo, Konami; Atari 5200: any prototype, Ballblazer, Berzerk, Buck Rogers, Choplifter, HERD, 007, Pitfall II, Pitfall, Space Dungeon, Death Star, Zaxxon; Atari 7800: any prototype, any 3rd party game, Impossible Mission, XE Light Gun; ColecoVision: any 3rd party game, Congo Bongo, Antarctic Adventure, Dr. Seuss, Dukes, Frenzy, Dubes, Front Line, Illusions, Monkey, Omega Race, Spy Hunter, Star Trek, Tapper. **FOR SALE DR TRADE:** Pointmaster Fire Control, NES controller converted to 7800, Telegames Pong Unit, Telegames Pinball Breakaway, Atari Remote Joysticks, Atari 8-tape holder. I want to trade! Mike Bellman, 1804A N. Sylvan Ln., Columbia, MO 65202, (314) 474-2879.

WANTED: Coleco mini-arcade table top games: Donkey Kong, Pac-Man, Frogger and Galaxian. Also wanted: video game board games Donkey Kong and Pac-Man. Write: David Frank, PO Box 612, Montour Falls, NY 14865.

WANTED: Intellivision System, must be complete, with games if possible. ALSD: Sonic the Hedgehog for the Sega Master System, Sega Master System converter for the Game Gear, Paddles for Atari 2600, NEC TurboExpress, Dinoland for Genesis. Gale Putt, 123 Sheep Pasture Rd., Setauket, NY 11733. (516) 689-6420.

WILL BUY, SELL, OR TRADE games and software for most classic systems. Including all Atari systems, ColecoVision and Intellivision, Atari 8-bit computers and Commodore 64. Low prices, plus specials. Some collectibles available too. NES, TurboGrafx-16 and Duo CD's also wanted. To receive a list or exchange lists, write: Mike Casey, 1655 E Sahara Apt 1106, Las Vegas, NV 89104.

FOR SALE: Atari 2600: Bump N Jump, GI Joe, Pete Rose, Pressure Cooker, Room of Doom, Sentinel; Atari 5200: Space Dungeon, Super Cobra, Mario Bros, Berzerk, Astro Chase; Atari 7800: Alien Brigade, Motor Psycho, Jinks, Planet Smashers, Pete Rose; Intellivision: Ladybug, Melody Blaster, Nova Blast, Commando, Demo Cart, Chip Shot Golf, Spiker, Defender, Centipede; Fairchild: #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16; Bally: Basic, Bally Pin, Speed Math, Incredulous Wizard, Football, Blackjack. Many other games and systems available. **FOR TRADE:** Atari 2600: Gremlins, Mr. Do's Castle, Popeye by ???, River Raid by ???, Spider by ???, Track N Field; Atari 5200: Gremlins; Intellivision: Sewer Sam, Blockade Runner, Computer Adapter; Fairchild: #10, 18, 21, 23, 24, 26. **WANTED:** Atari 2600: Crazy Climber, Atari Video Cube, Water World; Atari 5200: Beamrider, Tutankham, Spitfire; Intellivision: Stadium Mud Buggies, Body Slam. Edward Villalpando,

13525 Utica St., Whittier, CA 90605.

WANTED: Buy or trade: Atari 2600: Sears Checkers, Cannon Man, APF System, Entex Adventurevision, Entex Select-a-Game, RCA Studio II, Video Copy Cart by Vidtex, Gemini system & controllers, Xonox (2600) Chuck Norris single, Spike's Peak single & Robin Hood/Sir Lancelot double-ender. Al Backiel, 253 Rock Rd., Ridgewood, NJ 07450. (201) 670-9713.

SEEKING: Starpath Survival Island and Sword of Saros. **FOR TRADE:** Tapper, Miner 2049er, Skeet Shoot, Dishaster, Mogul Maniac, Sorcerer's Apprentice, MAD, HERO, Ram It, Smurfs Save the Day w/tapes, Super Cobra, GI Joe, Frogger II, Wabbit, Pete Rose BB, Time Pilot, Spitfire Attack, and many more. Wayne Dunphy "The Games Scrounger", 3664 Kolstad Rd, Eagan, MN 55123. (612) 454-9588.

HARD TO FIND ATARI 5200 GAMES, some with boxes & instructions. Cheap, new 7800 games. Common 2600, some w/box & instructions. Send SASE to Mark Allen, 1609 Newton St, Eldorado, IL 62930.

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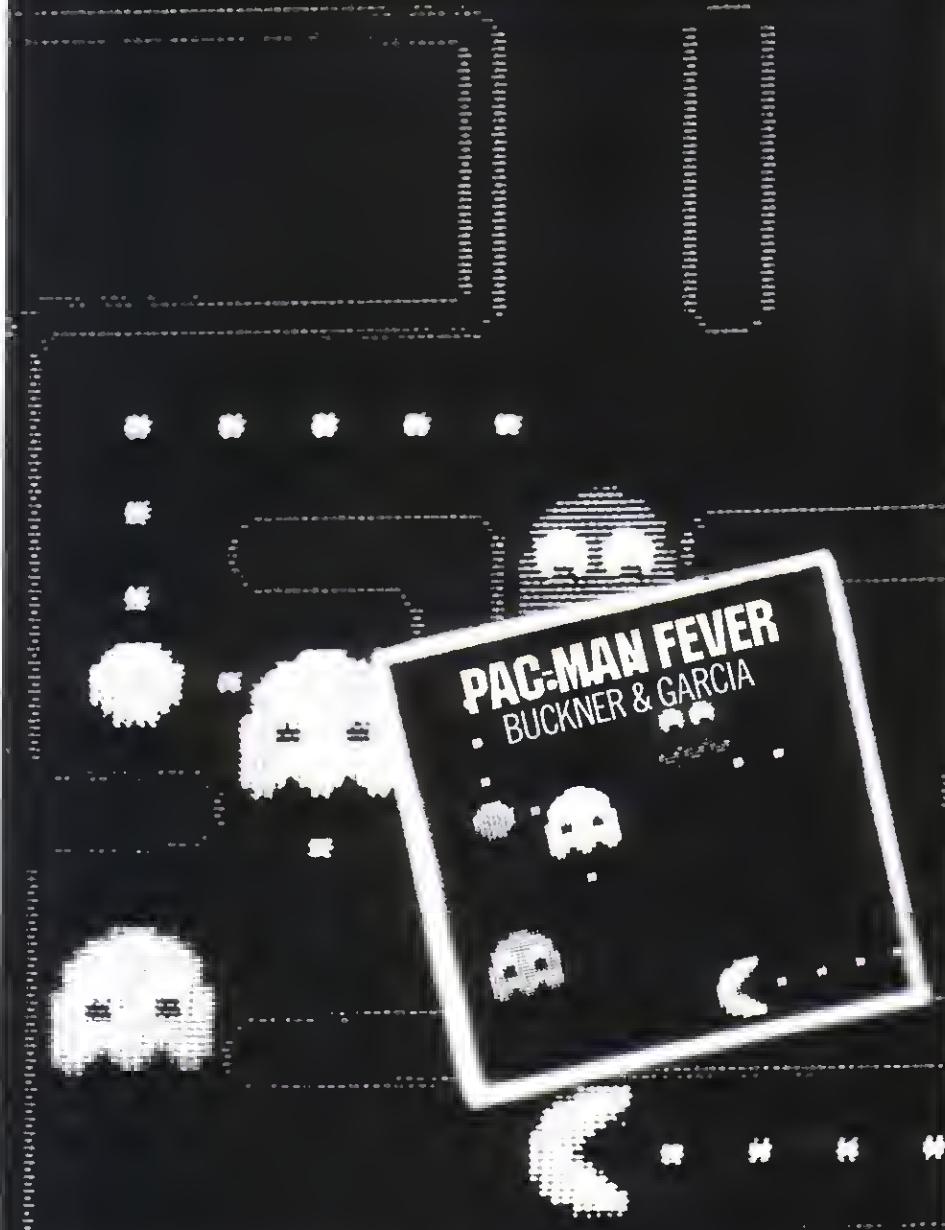
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NOTE-worthy

NES PRICE LIST AVAILABLE

Another perk for DP readers! Fellow fan-ed Jeff Beedham ("Game Force") has produced his OWN price list for the Nintendo 8-bit games! If you mention that you saw this in DP, he'll give it to you for a paltry \$1.00! Hey, that's a mere bag of shells for us rich cutting edge types! Let's support Craig by sending him that \$1.00, because we all know you'll just end up wasting it in some go-go bar anyway. Write: Jeff Beedham, c/o NES PRICE LIST, PO Box 1610, Belen, NM 87002.

NEW 7800 TITLE DISCOVERED!

Previously known to exist exclusively for the Atari 2600, Sentinel (by Atari) has been recently discovered in Europe. Utilizing a light gun, sensational graphics, and intriguing gameplay accentuate this rare find. Unfortunately, a 7800 PAL console is required to play. If you use it on your crummy NTSC (North American) system, the screen will black out after the Atari logo appears.

CLASSIC SYSTEMS BOOK

So you still don't believe that the "classics" are coming back into style? Well, disbeliever, what do you say about this, then? Leonard Herman has just completed a whole book on the subject, titled *Phoenix (The Fall & Rise of Home Videogames)*, self-published par excellence! Still skeptical, Mr. or Mrs. high pockets? Well, you can change your wicked ways. Just send Lenny \$14 and he'll rush the book out to you chop chop. I've read it cover to cover and I must say - a job well done! Hey, wanna write for us, Leo? Send that money NOW to Leonard Herman, 2069 Stecher Avenue, Union, NJ 07083-5307.

DP GUIDE 3 JUGGERNAUT ROLLETH

It's underway! Wow, over 100 pages already and I haven't added in the picturas yet! Yes, I'm hyping it some more - sue me! Better yet, PRE-ORDER the DP Guide #3 by May 31st, 1994 and get it for just \$12 - that's \$3 less than it's gonna cost when June rolls in and the Guide starts shipping. Look, it's got all the stuff the first two editions had plus lots more "reading material" by your favorite contributing editors like Russ Perry Jr. and Jeff Cooper, a complete unabridged "PsychOpedia" (with corrections and many additions), a "Rumor Mill" section of games that were proposed but never released, lots of classic advertising, a brand new "Collector's Connection", and oh so much more. That's \$12 to Joe Santulli, DP GUIDE #3 PRE-ORDER, 44 Hunter Pl, Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442. Expect the final product to arrive at your doorstep the week of June 20th.